



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Graduation Pathways Panel Meeting #2 – Collaborators' Biographies

Caitlin Bell is the Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs for the Institute for Quality Education. In that role, Caitlin directs our legislative affairs efforts and provides a constant presence at the Statehouse where she presents information, data and research to legislators while advocating for key policies that ensure every Hoosier child has access to high quality educational options. Prior to joining the team in November of 2013 she spent nearly seven years serving as a valued staff member for the Indiana House Republican Caucus. During that time, Caitlin served in various roles, including the policy analyst and deputy policy director positions, where much of her time was focused on education policy. A lifelong Hoosier, Caitlin was born and raised in northern Indiana. She graduated from Ball State University in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and Economics.

Sekou Biddle leads UNCF's advocacy efforts to ensure more African American students will be college-ready and better prepared to enroll in and complete college by driving sustainable education reforms that benefit students and empower parents and communities to demand improvement. He manages UNCF's advocacy platform, which includes three major components: grassroots partnerships, grassroots engagement, and messaging and research. He has more than 20 years of experience in urban public education reform and is a former at large member of the D.C. Council. He represented Wards 3 and 4 on the District of Columbia State Board of Education. As executive director of the Southern Region of Jumpstart for Young Children, he partnered trained adults in year-long relationships with preschool-aged children to prepare them for success in school. Mr. Biddle previously was director of community outreach for KIPP DC. Prior to this, he trained and supported first- and second-year teachers as a program director with Teach For America, the national teacher corps. Mr. Biddle has hands-on experience in the classroom working as a teacher in New York City, Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

Anna Chaney is the mother of a second grader at IPS Washington Irving School 14. She is currently the Secretary of the PTA at Washington Irving and serves as a volunteer in the school pantry. Chaney has advocated for her children and others through Stand For Children for the last year. The Washington Irving Parent Involvement Educator selected Chaney as the Parent of the Year for the 2016-2017.

Kim Dodson was appointed to serve as Executive Director of The Arc of Indiana in July 2015. Kim first joined The Arc of Indiana in 1998 as Director of Government Relations and was moved into the role of Associate Executive Director in 2006. The Arc of Indiana has 43 local chapters throughout the state representing 58 counties and over 21,000 individual members. The Arc was established in 1956 by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who joined together to build a better and more accepting world for their children. Today, The Arc is the largest national community-



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based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Dodson has over 20 years of work experience in the field of public policy and government affairs. She has worked for a United States Congressman, the Indiana House of Representatives, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and as a contract lobbyist for a local law firm. Dodson received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Purdue University in political science and literature.

Debbie Fox currently serves on the Indiana PTA State Board as the President. She has held all officers positions at the local and council level. Deb, after 18 years of service, is a retired elementary school secretary. She has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and has been married for 39 years. Fox has served on PTA for over 30 years beginning when her son started Kindergarten. She initially wanted to get involved simply because she wanted to know the other children in my kids' class and get to know the parents as well. Her first job was popping popcorn. She was known by the students as the "Popcorn Lady." She also wanted to know what was going on in the school system and I wanted to make a difference. Fox attends Osceola United Methodist Church and serves as Outreach chair. She also serves on the Mishawaka Education Foundation Board of Directors and the St. Joe County Junior Achievement Board. Fox has received both State and National Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Mary Gardner is the Director of Government Affairs Stand For Children, where she works to address the needs of parents and teachers across Indiana through legislation and policy implementation. After graduating from Vanderbilt University with a BS in Political Science, Gardner taught in the San Francisco Bay Area. During her time in the classroom, Gardner looped with her students from third to fourth to fifth grade. Upon returning to Indy, Gardner worked with high-needs schools across the state at the Indiana Department of Education. Gardner then worked at United Way of Central Indiana, where she led school improvement work and spearheaded the Hubbard Life-Changing School Educator Award honoring outstanding IPS teachers and principals.

Francisco Guerra is a senior at Ben Davis University High School on track for a Core 40 Diploma with Academic & Technical Honors, as well as an Associate Degree Career Technical in General Studies with an emphasis in Business from Vincennes University. Francisco is very active in Business Professionals of America and won the position of Region 8 President of the Indiana BPA Association. In addition to BPA, Francisco is also involved in Student Council, served as a peer tutor at BDU for the past three years, and is the President of the BDU National Honor Society Chapter. After he earns his high school diploma and associate degree he plans to transfer to IU Bloomington and major in Business & Finance with a future career goal of owning and managing his own business. Francisco is also very active in his scholarship search in order to continue to financially support his own college education after he graduates from BDU and he recently was selected to apply for the Lilly Endowment Scholarship and is in the process of applying for other merit-based scholarships.



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Rosalynn Kowal attends Ben Davis High School and is a senior. She is pursuing a Core 40 Diploma with both Academic and Technical Honors. Rosalynn takes a number of classes in Area 31 Career Center. She is in her second year of her 3 hour dual-credit Precision Machining class and serves as a student ambassador for the program. Rosalynn has also taken many of the PLTW engineering classes and is currently enrolled in the Engineering Design & Development class, as well as Computer-Integrated Manufacturing. She also took the Advanced Manufacturing course her sophomore year and earned her CLA Certification (Certified Logistics Associate). Rosalynn will be receiving the Indiana 4-H Foundation Scholarship in the discipline of Engineering and Technological Sciences in October. Rosalynn has been a member of the Ben Davis Robotics team for 4 years now, helping with team management, build team, and fundraising. After high school she plans to attend Vincennes University and finish her Precision Machining Tool and Die, as well as her Advanced CNC Programming Associate's Degrees. She will then transfer to Purdue University to earn her Bachelor's in Agricultural Engineering. Ultimately, she wants to work for a startup company, designing and prototyping machines for the horticulture industry.

Amy Marsh is a results driven educator with 20 years of experience including development and management of professional staff and programs. She has lead teams with emphasis on support and high quality outcomes. Marsh is experienced at leveraging community resources to improve academic performance for all students and has served as primary facilitator and communicator for educational data analysis, policy analysis, and strategic planning. She also is proficient in grant writing and professional development delivery. Marsh's professional experiences have focused on connecting students and the workforce with the skills needed to succeed throughout their career. She has served the Department of Workforce Development and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce in this capacity; building comprehensive resources to use occupational demand data in counseling and advising settings across the lifespan. Additionally, Marsh has worked an independent consultant focusing on career pathways, postsecondary counseling, career and technical education, and curriculum development. Prior to that, she worked for the Indiana Department of Education as the state coordinator for advanced placement, international baccalaureate, and dual credit.

Triton Martin is currently a 12th grade student enrolled at Perry Central Junior-Senior High School. He will be graduating with a Core 40 degree, Ivy Tech Gen. Ed. Core 30 degree, Academic Honors degree, and Technical Honors degree. In his time at Perry Central Junior-Senior High School, Triton has taken various AP courses including AP Biology, AP U.S History, AP Language, and AP Literature. He has also completed 4 years of Spanish, a technical career pathway in the category of engineering, two semesters of SMAW Welding I at Ivy Tech Community College, and is currently partaking in an internship with the Tell City Sheriff's Department. He is a member of International Club, National Honor Society, Literature Club, and Commodores in Christ,



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and is also an athlete for Perry Central's Varsity Football Team and Unified Track Team. Triton aspires to attend Indiana University Southeast to pursue a degree in law enforcement and utilize his education to obtain a career as a State Patrolman or Conservation officer.

Sydney O'Day is a senior at Ben Davis High School and is pursuing an Academic Honors Diploma. Sydney has been a key contributor to the Ben Davis Key Club. She has been a loyal member since her freshman year, became the club secretary as a sophomore, and has been the Key Club president the past two years. She has donated many hours in helping our community. Sydney isn't just involved in community service, but she also is heavily involved in sports. She has been a member, and strong leader, of the cross country and track team at Ben Davis High School. Sydney is also a proud member of DECA and went to state in 2017. She was voted a senior class officer for the class of 2018, was inducted into the National Honor Society in 2017, and hopes to become a strong leader there, as well. She is undecided about which college she wishes to attend next year, but she is looking into a career in aeronautical engineer and is anxious to find out what that entails!

Caylyn Peter is a junior at Perry Central Jr-Sr High School. Caylyn is currently taking courses in order to receive her Core 40, Academic Honors, Technical Honors, and the Ivy Tech Gen. Ed. Core 30 when she graduates. Her future goals are to attend University of Southern Indiana where she will pursue a Medical Degree. Beginning her freshman year, Caylyn started her Medical pathway with Principles of Biomedical Science followed by Medical Interventions and Human Body Systems. Caylyn is active in Future Farmers of America (FFA), Student Taking Action, Not Drugs (STAND), 4-H, Student Council, and National Honor Society (NHS).

In 2016, **Caleb Pierson** graduated from Batesville High School, completed the Ivy Manufacturing (Co-Op) program in partnership with Ivy Tech, and became an engineer at Heartwood manufacturing. After graduation, Caleb continued his education at Ivy Tech – Batesville in Design Technology and will graduate with his Associates degree in December 2017. On top of earning his associate degree at the age of 19, he will graduate college debt free through tuition assistance provided by his employer and Ivy Tech scholarships.

Doneisha Posey is currently the Deputy Director and General Counsel of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, where she previously was appointed as the Administrative Law Judge. In her capacity as Administrative Law Judge, Posey presided over cases of discrimination in the areas of housing, employment, education, public accommodations, and credit. Prior to her appointment with ICRC, Posey practiced in the private sector at The Law Firm of Fatima Johnson, where she specialized in immigration and family law. She also served as a judicial clerk for Chief Judge Nancy Vaidik of the Indiana Court of Appeals during law school. Posey's background includes litigation before federal



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administrative agencies, particularly the Executive Office of Immigration Review within the Department of Justice, and state and federal courts. Posey received her Juris Doctor from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, and received her Bachelor of Arts from Marian University. She is admitted to the Indiana Bar and the U.S. District Courts of Northern and Southern Indiana.

Pamela Stalling is a graduate of Saint Louis University with a major in Communications and a minor in Marketing. She has been in the housing counseling industry for the past 20 years. Currently, she is working with Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance as the Housing Coordinator. In her volunteer life, for the past 10 years, she has been a State Board member for the Indiana Parent Teacher Association. She served as Vice President, Chairperson for Indiana State PTA Cultural Diversity and Inclusivity Committee, and Legislative Chair. She is currently the President of Thea Bowman Leadership Academy PTSA, but has been president for many others PTA's at her children's school. Most importantly at church, she is an Usher and Youth Supervisor. Currently Stalling's mission is to educate, teach, and inspire others to become financially stable and encourage other asset building strategies for the next generation. Stalling is married to Kenneth and they have two girls and two boys (Alyncia, Ivorie, Kenneth Jr., and Langston).

Alma Torres attends Cardinal Ritter High School. She has been on the High Honor Roll throughout high school and currently has a cumulative 3.5 GPA. Her extracurricular activities at Ritter include Latin Club and Student Ambassador. Alma has worked at the Indianapolis Zoo for the past three summers, and this summer she was promoted to supervisor. She is involved in a program called Starfish Initiative that is designed to help 21st Century Scholars get to and succeed in college. Her home is very big and consists of her two parents, three sisters, a brother, a nephew, another baby on its way, and, lastly, their family dog, Sugar. Alma is reserved, determined, hardworking, humble, and always ready to try something new. Education is very important to her and something she would like to continue after high school. She would be first in her family to attend college after high school, which is due to her determination and persistence throughout her educational career. Alma would like to major in Accounting with goal of ultimately becoming an accountant.